






Capacity of Transportation Modes

The following comparisons are “rule of thumb” approximations. Differences between wheat and barley weight and average lading amounts are not precisely defined. (For example, no firm distinction between shallow draft and deep draft freighters is made.)

9 Tons (or 300 Bushels)	=	1 Farm Truck	
3 Farm Trucks	=	1 Semi Truck with “Pup”	
3 Semi Trucks	=	1 Jumbo Hopper Car	
30 Railcars	=	1 Barge	
11-16 Barges	=	1 25,000-62,000 Ton Ocean Freighter (920,000-2,275,000 Bushels)	
1 62,000 Ton Freighter	=	41 Barges 12 Unit Trains (52-car) 624 Hopper Cars 1000 Semi Trucks 6900 Farm Trucks	

Transportation

Shuttle trains are a different concept from unit trains. Their turn-around time is eight days. A shuttle train could (would) have 110 cars loading at one origin. The power will stay with the cars. A 52-car unit train can carry 170,000 bushels. It takes 3 trucks to haul 1 railcar worth. A 110-car shuttle train can haul 370,260 bushels of wheat.

What is needed at an elevator facility to manage shuttle train loadings?

1. 7,000 feet of track to accommodate 110 empty and 110 loaded cars,
2. Two 20,000 bu./hr. shipping legs,
3. Two 20,000 bu./hr. receiving legs,
4. 110' platform scale,
5. Two receiving pits,
6. A minimum 1 million-bushel storage capacity,
7. Costs: \$1 million for truckage, and \$4 million for actual facility. (These are minimum costs.)